

REMARKS

Status

Claims 1-27 were originally filed. By the present amendment, claims 2-5, 9-13, 15-19 and 22-24 have been canceled. New claims 28-43 have been added. Accordingly, it is now claims 1, 6-8, 14, 20, 21 and 28-43 which are at issue.

The Office Action

In the Office Action mailed November 2, 2004, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,213,236 of Yokoyama. Claims 3, 5, 9, 11-13, 15-19 and 22-27 were objected to as being dependent upon a base claim but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition, various objections were made to the drawings.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the search, the thorough explanation of the basis of the rejections, and for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Amended Claims

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate allowable subject matter therein. Accordingly, all of the amended claims are in condition for allowance.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and the subject matter of intervening claim 2 therein. Claim 1 and claims 6-8, 14, 20, 21 and 25-27 which ultimately depend on claim 1 are all allowable.

The Newly Presented Claims

Applicant presents herewith new claims 28-43, all of which incorporate subject matter which was indicated as allowable.

New claim 28 tracks originally filed claim 1 and further includes the allowable subject matter of claim 5 therein. Accordingly, claim 28 and claims 29-32 dependent thereupon are all allowable.

New claim 33 tracks claim 1 and includes the allowable subject matter of original claim 15 therein. Accordingly, claim 33 and claims 34-36 dependent thereupon are all allowable.

New claim 37 tracks originally filed claim 1 and includes the allowable subject matter of original claim 22 therein. Claim 37 and claims 38 and 39 dependent thereupon are all allowable.

New claim 40 tracks original claim 1 and includes the allowable subject matter of original claim 25 therein. Claim 40 and claims 41 and 42 dependent thereupon are allowable.

New Claim 43 is Allowable

Originally filed claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as lacking novelty in view of the Yokoyama '236 patent. The Yokoyama patent shows a bicycle having an auxiliary gasoline engine, and the primary teaching of that patent is of a mechanism system which senses torque applied by the rider to the drive train of the bicycle and controls the power applied to the engine in response thereto. As the Examiner notes, the Yokoyama patent does control a shock damping device shown at reference numeral 93 therein. The function of the shock damping device of Yokoyama is to smooth the application of mechanical power to the bicycle drive train, and this function is detailed, for example, in the passage at column 6, lines 40-50 cited to by the Examiner in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

In contrast, the anti-bob system of the present invention is operative to control a shock absorber associated with the suspension system of the bicycle. This shock absorber is operable to dampen road shocks which are communicated from the ground, to the wheels of the bicycle, to

the frame thereof. As such, the function and location of the shock damping device of the present invention differs from that of Yokoyama.

New claim 43 tracks originally filed claim 1, and includes further language specifying that the shock damping device of the present invention is operative to dampen mechanical shocks communicated through the frame of the cycle from the surface on which the cycle is traveling. As such, new claim 43 clearly differentiates the subject matter of the present invention in both form and function from that of the Yokoyama reference. Accordingly, claim 43 is allowable.

The Drawings

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to on the grounds that they do not include reference signs for the “pressure sensor 82” as recited at page 13, line 21, and the “signal line 86” as recited at page 13, line 21. Applicant notes for the record that the Figure 5 embodiment shows two pressure sensors labeled 82a and 82b, and two signal lines labeled 86a and 86b, and corresponding description thereof is found in the specification. The passage referred to by the Examiner notes that in some embodiments, a single pressure sensor and a single signal line may be employed, and in discussing these elements refers to them by the generic reference numerals “82” and “86” respectively. Applicant apologizes for any confusion resultant from such usage, and by the present amendment has deleted both reference numerals from the page 13, line 21 passage. In view thereof, this drawing objection is moot.

In the second paragraph of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because the reference character 56 is designed for a “support arm” (page 8, line 3) and a “cable” (page 8, lines 21, 22). Applicant apologizes for this error. By the present drawing corrections, the cable element in Figure 2 has been renumbered from “56” to “59.” In view thereof, this drawing

objection is overcome. Submitted herewith is a corrected version of Figure 2 showing changes thereto in red.

Conclusion

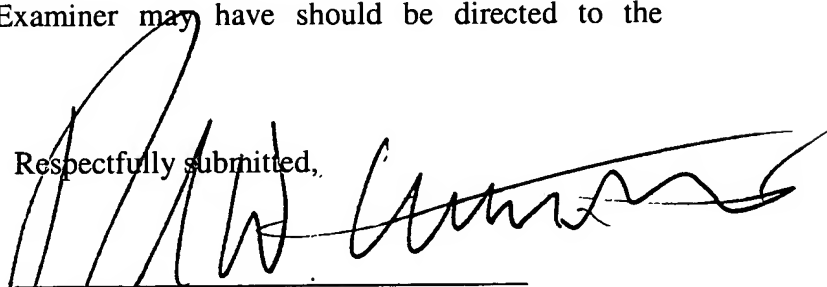
By the present amendment, Applicant has revised claims 1, 4-8, 14, 20, 21 and 25-27 to incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable. Applicant has also presented herewith new claims 28-42, all of which embody subject matter indicated as allowable.

Applicant has also presented herewith new claim 43 which differentiates the present invention from the prior art.

Applicant has also overcome the objections to the drawings.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now in condition for allowance. Any questions, comments or suggestions the Examiner may have should be directed to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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